The career no one advised me into: critical interculturality and what it means to be future ready

Bradley Hilgert
Keynote for the Languages2Careers Summit at the Ohio State University[i]
Sources and Further Reading

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The source is cited and then a sentence about how it was used in the talk.

The future of work, AI and career readiness

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Staley, David J. *Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.
  Career readiness as a forecast; future readiness as imagining alternatives that unsettle the present.
- Autor, David, Caroline Chin, Anna Salomons, and Bryan Seegmiller. "New Frontiers: The Origins and Content of New Work, 1940–2018." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 139, no. 3 (2024): 1399–1465. https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjae008.
  About 60 percent of U.S. jobs in 2018 were in categories that did not exist in 1940.
- Schwab, Klaus. *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*. Geneva: World Economic Forum, 2016.
  Origin of the term.
- Usher, Alex. "There Is No Fourth Industrial Revolution." Higher Education Strategy Associates, March 20, 2017. Link.
  A critique of the label.

For further research

- World Economic Forum. *The Future of Jobs Report 2025*. Geneva, January 2025. Link.

Listening, distance and proximity

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Rodríguez, Ileana, ed. *Convergencia de tiempos: Estudios subalternos/contextos latinoamericanos*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2001. English counterpart: *The Latin American Subaltern Studies Reader*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.
  Inclinarse para escuchar: leaning a little to one side in order to listen.
- Butler, Judith. "Precarious Life, Vulnerability, and the Ethics of Cohabitation." *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 26, no. 2 (2012): 134–151.
  Realizing that one's own life is also the life of others.
- Carrillo, Ana, and Bradley Hilgert. "La distancia: antiguas fronteras y discursos contemporáneos en Guayaquil." *Revista NUPEM* 16, no. 38 (2024): e-2024025.
  Distance as something societies build; proximity as undoing it. In Spanish.

For further research

- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, edited by Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, 271–313. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988.
- Butler, Judith. *Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence*. London: Verso, 2004.

Critical interculturality

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Lema, Lucila. "Educación e interculturalidad." II Jornadas de Oralidad y Docencia, Universidad de las Artes, Guayaquil, September 2017.

Who carries the weight of interculturality.

- Conference talk; Luis Maldonado's question, "Who needs to become intercultural?", was also posed at a conference and is unpublished.
- Hernández, Ibsen. *Tunda. Te daré una tunda*. Prologue by Ana Carrillo and Bradley Hilgert. UArtes Ediciones, 2018.
  La Tunda as a cimarrona; interculturality as "concern for the absence of the other." In Spanish.

For further research

- Mignolo, Walter D., and Catherine E. Walsh. *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.
  The best English entry point; Walsh writes from Ecuador.
- Walsh, Catherine. *Interculturalidad, Estado, sociedad: Luchas (de)coloniales de nuestra época*. Quito: Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar and Abya-Yala, 2009.
  The key work distinguishing functional from critical interculturality. In Spanish.
- García, Juan, and Catherine Walsh. *Pensar sembrando/sembrar pensando con el Abuelo Zenón*. Quito: Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar and Abya-Yala, 2017.
  Afro-Ecuadorian ancestral knowledge from the Pacific coast. In Spanish.
- Rivera Cusicanqui, Silvia. *Ch'ixinakax utxiwa: On Practices and Discourses of Decolonization*. Translated by Molly Geidel. Cambridge: Polity, 2020.

Liberation thought and Central American literature

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Boff, Leonardo, and Clodovis Boff. *Introducing Liberation Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987.
  The book the Jesuit novices at Hogar de Cristo slipped me in Guayaquil.
- Ellacuría, Ignacio. *Escritos universitarios*. San Salvador: UCA Editores, 1999.
  The subject of my dissertation. In Spanish.
- Argueta, Manlio. *One Day of Life*. Translated by Bill Brow. New York: Vintage, 1983. Original: *Un día en la vida*, 1980.
  Lupe and Corporal Martínez: seeing the system clearly and still recognizing the dignity of the other.

For further research

- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1973.
- Dussel, Enrique. *Philosophy of Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Hilgert, Bradley, and Zachary Dehm. "Desde el miedo hasta la liberación en *Un día en la vida* del salvadoreño Manlio Argueta." Translated by David Rozotto.
  A reading of the Argueta novel cited in the talk. In Spanish.
- Hilgert, Bradley. "Descension as Methodology: Ignacio Ellacuría and Claribel Alegría's Contributions to a Third World Leftist Praxis." Third World Quarterly 46, no. 11 (2025): 1395–1412. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2025.2517753.

Sentipensar and critical pedagogy

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Fals Borda, Orlando. *Una sociología sentipensante para América Latina*. Bogotá: CLACSO and Siglo del Hombre, 2009. In Spanish.
- Escobar, Arturo. *Sentipensar con la tierra*. Medellín: Ediciones UNAULA, 2014. In Spanish.

For further research

- Escobar, Arturo. *Designs for the Pluriverse: Radical Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2018.

Sentipensar and design, in English.

- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. 1970. 50th anniversary ed. New York: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Community practice in barrio Nigeria

Cited in the talk (or in some version of it)

- Hilgert, Bradley, and Ana Carrillo. "Procesos invisibles, actividades esporádicas, resultados concretos: un corte sobre el proyecto 'Abriendo la puerta.'" UArtes Ediciones, no. 1 (April–September 2020): 30–60.
  Radio Nigeria, the intranet that failed, and "the technological chain was too long." In Spanish.

For further research

- Carrillo, Ana, and Bradley Hilgert. *Nigeria: Segunda independencia*. Guayaquil: UArtes Ediciones, 2018.
  Two years of community art, radio and film work with the neighbors of barrio Nigeria. In Spanish.
- Carrillo, Ana, and Bradley Hilgert. "De la universidad a Nigeria y viceversa: hacia una pedagogía de tránsito." In *Universidad latinoamericana y movimientos populares*, 111–163. Buenos Aires: CLACSO and IIGG, 2018. In Spanish.
- Hilgert, Bradley, and Ana Carrillo. "Repensando la libertad desde la realidad del Sur: una pedagogía universitaria que libere." *Educación Superior y Sociedad* (IESALC-UNESCO), no. 26 (2018): 51–74. In Spanish.
- Carrillo, Ana, and Bradley Hilgert. "Pedagogías en países plurales: ¿cómo podría ser un currículo intercultural?" In *Arte, educación, interculturalidad: Reflexiones desde la práctica artística y docente*, edited by Jaime Sánchez Santillán. Quito: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, 2022.
  A practical model for an intercultural curriculum; especially useful for faculty and advisors. In Spanish.

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[i] **Summary:**

My talk will focus on how language study/learning is a foundation for building critical interculturality, the capacity to see ourselves in relation to others and to recognize who is missing. I want to propose that this makes students future ready in a way AI and new technologies cannot replace. I will make this argument by following my own path from a rural Ohio high school Spanish class to running a university in Ecuador and then back again.